

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 279536

62
ORIGIN IO-13

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66011
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

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UNESCO

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 17536 ACTION SECSTATE PARIS

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 17536

USIA FOR IEU; STATE FOR EUR/SOV; PARIS FOR ARS

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: APUB, SCUL, UR
SUBJECT: UNESCO "COURIER" BICENTENNIAL ISSUE

REF: (A) PARIS 17699, (B) PARIS 17642, (C) USIA 18731

1. SOYUZPECHAT ON NOVEMBER 4 DELIVERED TO EMBASSY 3000
REPEAT 3000 COPIES RUSSIAN EDITION SUBJECT PUBLICATION.
SUBSEQUENT INQUIRIES BY EMBASSY ELICITED RESPONSE THAT
REMAINDER OF ORIGINAL 10,000 COPY ORDER WOULD NOT REPEAT
NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE BY SOVIET PUBLISHER MEZHDUNARODNAYA
KNIGA FOR UNEXPLAINED REASONS AND THAT CREDIT FOR UNDE-
LIVERED 7000 COPIES WOULD BE RETURNED TO PARIS. FOR
PARIS/ARS: REQUEST YOU ASCERTAIN IF CREDIT FOR
DOLLARS 2100 INDEED RECEIVED.

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WM DESPITE CLEAR ASSURANCES FROM UNESCO (REFTEL A, PARA 4; REFTEL B, PARA 2) THAT RUSSIAN EDITION COULD IN NO WAY DIFFER FROM OTHER LANGUAGE EDITIONS, SOVIETS TACKLED ON FIVE-PAGE (INCLUDING INSIDE BACK COVER) SECTION CONTAINING EXCERPTS FROM REPORTS DELIVERED BY USA INSTITUTE DIRECTOR G.A. ARBATOV AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR R.G. BOGDANOV AT "SCIENTIFIC-THEORETICAL CONFERENCE" ORGANIZED BY USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ON SUBJECT "200 YEARS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: HISTORY AND THE CONTEMPORARY SITUATION." LAST-MINUTE NATURE OF JOB SHOWN BY FACT THAT THIS SECTION NOT INDICATED IN ISSUE'S TABLE OF CONTENTS.

3. CLEAR INTENT OF ADDITIONAL MATERIAL IS TO OFFSET PICTURE OF UNITED STATES PRESENTED BY ORIGINAL 46-PAGE CONTENTS OF "COURIER." WHILE CRITICIZING AMERICAN REVOLUTION FOR FAILURE TO END SLAVERY AND FOR ESTABLISHING SYSTEM DESIGNED TO PROMOTE "CAPITALISTIC PRIVATE ENTERPRISE," ARBATOV AND BOGDANOV ADMIT THAT REVOLUTION AND DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN PARTICULAR WERE "PROGRESSIVE" DEVELOPMENTS IN 18TH CENTURY CONTEXT. BOTH AUTHORS, HOWEVER, SEE CONTEMPORARY UNITED STATES AS REACTIONARY AND IMPERIALISTIC PERVERSION OF IDEALS OF DECLARATION. ARBATOV BEGINS HIS ARTICLE BY NOTING THAT AMERICA NO LONGER CARRIES THE "TORCH OF THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION" BUT IS "A BULWARK OF REACTIONARY REGIMES AND A SYMBOL OF THE OPPRESSION AND EXPLOITATION OF OTHER NATIONS." SECOND HALF OF BOGDANOV PIECE (AFTER FAIRLY BALANCED TREATMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD) IS DEVOTED TO COMPARISON OF CONTRASTING VIEWS WITHIN USA OF BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS, WHICH BOGDANOV LABELS "A STRUGGLE OF THE PROGRESSIVE AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN AMERICAN SOCIETY AND THE FORCES OF REACTION AND IMPERIALISM." BOGDANOV HAS GALL TO END PIECE WITH STATEMENT THAT "NOT WISHING TO PLAY DOWN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORY OF THE REVOLUTION ... A GENUINE RESOLUTION OF THE SOCIAL, NATIONAL, ECONOMIC AND OTHER PROBLEMS CREATED BY CAPITALISM BECAME POSSIBLE ONLY AS A RESULT OF THE GREAT OCTOBER SOCIALIST REVOLUTION."

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RM EMBASSY HAS NOT AS YET BEEN ABLE TO CHECK THOROUGHLY RUSSIAN LANGUAGE VERSIONS OF OTHER "COURIER" ARTICLES, BUT SUBJECTS AND AUTHORS IDENTICAL TO THOSE ORIGINALLY REPORTED TO US BY ARS/PARIS. AVAILABLE INFORMATION INDICATES THAT 35,000 COPIES OF "COURIER" ARE SENT TO SOVIET SUBSCRIBERS (PRESUMABLY INSTITUTIONS RATHER THAN INDIVIDUALS) AND THAT 15,000 COPIES ARE PRINTED FOR NEWS-

STAND SALES. SUPPOSITION IS THAT 3000 COPIES RECEIVED
HERE DIVERTED FROM, RATHER THAN IN ADDITION TO, NORMAL
PRESS RUN.

5. EMBASSY FEELS WE NOW FACED WITH TWO OPTIONS: (A) RE-
TURN THE 3000 COPIES RECEIVED, INSIST ON REFUND OF MONIES
EXPENDED FOR THEM, AND STRONGLY OBJECT (AT UNESCO) TO
SOVIET TAMPERING WITH SUPPOSEDLY UNIFORM WORLD-WIDE
CONTENTS OF "COURIER," (B) PROTEST AT UNESCO BUT KEEP THE
3000 COPIES FOR LOW-KEY DISTRIBUTION TO SPECIALISTS VISITING
"USA-200 YEARS" EXHIBIT BEING HELD HERE NOVEMBER 11-DECEMBER
13, ON BASIS THAT VALUE OF INITIAL 46 PAGES OF "COURIER" OUT-
WEIGHS PROPAGANDA OF LAST FIVE PAGES AND THAT PUBLIC-
ATION ISNOT IN ANY WAY CONNECTED WITH USG.

6. EMBASSY LEANS TOWARD OPTION A. OPTION B, IN OUR
VIEW, MIGHT UNDERCUT ANY SERIOUS EXPRESSION OF OUR DIS-
PLEASURE WHICH WE FEEL IS CALLED FOR IN ANY CASE.

6. REQUEST DEPT. AND AGENCY VIEWS SOONEST ON PREFERRED
COURSE OF ACTION.
MATLOCK.
UNQUOTE KISSINGER.

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